

City of Colville

PLANNING COMMISSION

December 14, 2016

7:00 P.M. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Planning Commission met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, in the Council Room at City Hall. Chairperson Jody Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jody Hoffman, Russ Larsen, Avrum Baum, and Lynn O'Connor. MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Wade. STAFF PRESENT: City Planner RJ Keetch and Recording Secretary Sydney Gilmore. OTHERS PRESENT: Melinda Lee and Kinsey Larsen.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting of June 8, 2016 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Russ Larsen moved and Avrum Baum seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Voice vote showed all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no Old Business to be presented.

At this time, Lynn O'Connor asked for clarification on the Nuisance/Code enforcement task force that was discussed at the June 8, 2016 Planning Commission meeting. RJ Keetch explained that he and Dave Harper, Building Official for the City of Colville, are working on developing a Property Maintenance Code for the City. This will enable the City to enforce citations to dilapidated buildings such as the Excel building. After collaborating with the City Attorney, this code will be brought to City Council for consideration in early 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Complete Streets

This discussion moved to first order of business due to guest speakers being present. RJ introduced what the Complete Streets concept is about. Complete Streets are City streets that include more than just an automobile; these streets include pedestrians, bicyclist, and other forms of transportation. RJ asked Melinda Lee, District Planner for Tri County Economic Development District, representing the Northeast Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization, to come forward and further explain the Complete Streets initiative. Melinda explained that this initiative is not only for the State of Washington, but rather an initiative for the whole Country. The Complete Streets design concepts improve safety and help promote communities being active. Melinda used the Hawthorne project as an example of a Complete Street.

There is funding available for this initiative, but in order to obtain funding the first step is to create a Complete Streets Ordinance. In our Tri County region, the City of Republic and the Town of Ione are the only agencies who have initiated a Complete Streets Ordinance. Melinda explained that there is a misconception that in adopting this ordinance you would have to retrofit all of your streets to follow the Complete Streets Ordinance and that is incorrect. Melinda invited us to reference the White Salmon Complete Streets Ordinance when creating our own ordinance.

Kinsey Larsen, Tri County Economic Development District's Regional Mobility Coordinator, was introduced to present information about the transportation offered to our community. The Complete Streets Program and our local transportation services would work together to make our streets more accessible to people in need. This collaboration will provide a safe place for community members to access bus stops for commuters who walk, are confined to a wheelchair, ride a bicycle, or utilize any other form of transportation. The services provided in our area are also connected to Google Maps and community members are able to map out their trip and compare schedules of existing transit options. After agreement of the importance of Complete Streets in our City, RJ stated he will put together a draft ordinance to bring to the next Planning Commission meeting.

B. Update Floodplain Ordinance

RJ introduced the National Flood Insurance Program. Lynn Schmidt, Statewide Flood Engineer for the Department of Ecology, reviewed our existing Floodplain Ordinance and offered revision suggestions in order to be compliant with the current FEMA Model Ordinance for Washington State. This program was established by congress, and it allows owners to purchase federally backed flood insurance if the community has an ordinance in place. It needs to be compliant with State rules and as of now our existing floodplain ordinance is non-compliant. RJ stated it is not required, but it will help the homeowners in our City that could potentially be affected by flooding. The Planning Commission will revisit once the draft ordinance is available.

C. Strategic Plan Vision Discussion

The Planning Commissioners were given information in their packets regarding the previous workshops held for the public and City employees regarding the new Strategic Plan. In these workshops, City goals were identified and a draft vision was created. The Strategic Plan is a "big picture" vision for the community. Lynn asked if any new updates have occurred since the last public workshops. RJ explained that any new information will be provided at the January 10th City Council. A survey will be administered to the public regarding the Strategic Plan as well. Russ Larsen asked what topics were being discussed at the public workshops. RJ said the major issues discussed are Downtown, Tourism, Safety, and Economic Vitality.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Avrum asked to publicly announce the second floor of the Tiger @ Creek building on 3rd Avenue is in the process of becoming an event center.

REPORTS

RJ reported Scott McMillan with Colmac Coil is pursuing a Zone Boundary Change. Once this application has been submitted it will need to be presented to the Planning Commission Board to discuss

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Avrum Baum moved and Russ Larsen seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 P.M.